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# University Avenue Rehabilitation & Widening Project

State of Alaska  
Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities



# Project Location



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## Project Goals

- Improve safety
- Replace pavement
- Replace the University Avenue Bridge
- Expand the traffic capacity of University Avenue between College Road and the Mitchell Expressway

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## Safety

- Most accidents occur at the intersections with Geist Road and Airport Way.
- Most other accidents are rear enders and left turns onto and off of University Avenue.

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# Replace Pavement



Cracks



Ruts

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# Replace the Bridge



Patching up the University Avenue Bridge  
August 18, 2004

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# Increase Capacity

- Access management
- Congestion at major intersections



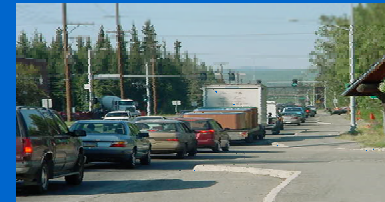
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# Improvements

- Considering raised median
- Add lanes at Airport Way and Geist Road intersections
- Replace Chena River Bridge
- Construct railroad undercrossing
- Build multi-use pedestrian path



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# Major Arterials

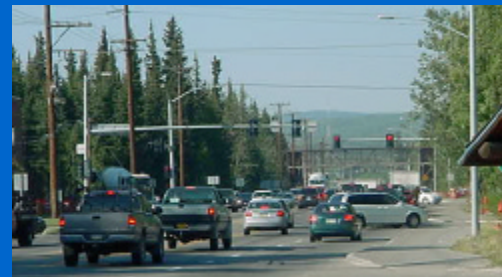


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# Access Management

- Is a balance between the access needs of adjacent property owners and the safety requirements of the motoring public
- It is managing the number of access points while maintaining reasonable access



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## Raised Median

Safety and access management

- Raised median separates left turns
- Reduces the number of driveway access points

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# Access Management

Reduces conflicts by:

- Limiting the number of conflict points a vehicle may experience
- Separating conflict points as much as possible
- Removing slower turning vehicles that require access to adjacent sites from through traffic lanes

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# Railroad undercrossing

Bridge railroad over  
University Avenue

Remove existing  
Fairbanks Street  
bridge

Install new  
pedestrian tunnel  
to campus



# Possible Construction Segments



South  
Chena River to the  
Mitchell Expressway

Middle  
Deadman Slough to a  
new Chena River  
Bridge

North  
Thomas Street to  
Deadman Slough  
with RR  
undercrossing



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# Progress

Since the last public meeting

- The Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement is underway
- Right of way impacts and railroad undercrossing design are being evaluated



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# Process

## Milestones prior to construction:

- 2004 Complete Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- 2005 Supplemental Final EIS
- 2005 Record of Decision

If a build alternative is chosen, then

- 2005-2007 Design
- 2006-2008 Right of way acquisition
- 2007-2010 Construct projects

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## Costs and Schedule

North Segment- Thomas Street to Deadman Slough with railroad undercrossing in 2007 for \$9.5 million

Middle Segment- Deadman Slough to new Chena River Bridge in 2008 for \$13.2 million

South Segment- Chena River to the Mitchell Expressway in 2009 for \$10.4 million

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## Summary

- Expected improvements include
  - Raised median
  - Additional turn lanes at Geist Road and Airport Way
  - New pavement
  - New Chena River Bridge
  - Pedestrian Path
- Construction expected no sooner than 2007

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State of Alaska  
Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities  
in cooperation with the  
Federal Highway Administration

